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ABSTRACT

This book presents a comprehensive history of higher education for American Indians. Following an introduction, chapter 2 covers the Colonial Period, from European contact to the establishment of the U.S. Government. Some of the earliest universities, most notably Harvard, Dartmouth, and William and Mary, specifically claimed to have had American Indian education among their goals, but attendance was poor, the education offered was not relevant to the Indians, and funding for the American Indian component of these schools was often redirected towards other programs. Chapter 3 discusses the Federal Period, which lasted from the Revolutionary War until the 1960s. During this time, higher education of American Indians was ignored, and the focus was on low-level vocational training combined with religious instruction geared to erase Indian culture. Chapter 4 describes the Self-Determination Period, which started with the Indian Reorganization Act of 1934. However, not until after World War II was there a significant increase of American Indians in higher education. The establishment of 30 tribally controlled colleges in 1968 marked a major new era of American Indian education. Chapter 5 compares American Indian and Black higher education, finding more differences than similarities between the two. Chapter 6 provides an overview, noting that granting American Indians self-determination does not relieve the federal government of its responsibility to support their needs. Three appendices present a chronology of important events, a list of federal government officials up to 1980, and current tribal colleges. (Contains 229 references and an index.) (TD)

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